

Indiana Heritage and Culture Council
<http://www.in.gov/heritage>
Minutes
October 4 2002

The Indiana Heritage and Culture Council convened at 10:09 a.m. (EST) in Room A of the Indiana Government Center, Conference Center, 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Council members present were: Pam Bennett (Indiana Historical Bureau), Sal Cilella (Indiana Historical Society), Chuck Coffey (Indiana Department of Administration), Chair Beth Compton (Governor's Office), Wendy Dant Chesser (Indiana Rural Development Council), Carmen DeRusha (Hispanic Community), Rita Kohn (Citizen Member), Scott Massey (Indiana Humanities Council), Senator James Merriitt (Indiana Senate), Jeff Myers (Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites), Nancy Nakano Conner (Asian Community), John Newman (Commission on Public Records), Elizabeth Osborn (Citizen Member), Jane Rulon (Department of Commerce - Tourism and Film Development), Jon Smith (DNR-DHPA), Jennifer Swenson (2016 Project), and Carter Wolf (Citizen Member).

Proxies present: Ginny Andis, (For Ray Ewick, State Library) and Rex Van Vant (Indiana Arts Commission)

Council members absent were: Ray Gonyea (Citizen Member), Representative Markt Lytle (Indiana House of Representatives), Representative Tom Saunders (Indiana House of Representatives), Paul Strack (Native American Community), Bill Sweeney (Indiana War Memorials Commission), Reid Williamson (Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana), Mayor Richard Ullrich (Citizen Member), and Senator Richard Young (Indiana Senate).

Other attendees were: Shelia Griffin (DNR-DHPA), Alan January (Indiana State Archives), Jeannie Regan-Dinius (DNR-DHPA), and Robin Tew (Governor's Office).

The Indiana Heritage and Culture Council was called to order by Beth Compton of Governor O'Bannon's office.

I. Welcome/Introductions

Ms. Compton welcomed those in attendance. She also asked if there were any people serving as proxies. Ginny Andis announced she was the proxy for Ray Ewick of the Indiana State Library. Rex Van Vant is the proxy for the Indiana Arts Commission.

II. Approval of Minutes of August 2, 2002 Meeting – previously distributed

Ms. Compton called for additions or corrections to the minutes from the August 2, 2002. Ms. Newman made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Mr. Myers seconded the motion. Ms. Swenson noted that there was a typo in the minutes under page 1, I in the proxy section. Mr. Newman agreed to change his motion to approve minutes as amended. The motion carried.

III. Committee Reports

The chair asked that the reports be taken out of order.

B. Technology Committee – There was no report because Mr. Ewick was at a conference.

Ms. Bennett noted that the website is on-line for Council's viewing. Each website belonging to the organizations could link to the site.

It was asked if the Council could approve the website. Ms. Compton said the Council should wait to hear from Mr. Ewick. Any changes to the website should be emailed to Mr. Ewick.

On a motion from Ms. Rulon and seconded by Mr. Smith, the Council delegated the authority to Mr. Ewick to make the website accessible to the general public. The motion carried.

C. Private/Nonprofit Survey Committee – Jon Smith

Mr. Smith noted that we have half of the surveys returned. Staff will be calling those organizations that have not returned their surveys.

Ms. Bennett noted that the surveys will become an appendix to the Collaborative Plan.

D. Archives Task Force – Senator James Merritt

The Archives Task Force report and minutes from the Committee meeting were distributed to the Council.

Senator Merritt noted some highlights of the report including the staff shortage of the archives, the work and plans of other archives, and additional outreach that needs to be accomplished.

Mr. January noted the current space, while it has some benefits that the basement of the old building did not have, is unacceptable. The shell of the building is not sound; the tornado that hit Indianapolis in August would have destroyed the building had it hit the area. Any upgrade to this building, along with the other problems with the building, would be more expensive than new construction. The Committee agreed that if a new building were going to be constructed, a downtown location would be best.

Senator Merritt noted that public transportation out to the temporary location is not adequate. Some staff and volunteers now rely on rides from others to get to the facility.

The option that the Committee has suggested is a partnership with the Indiana Historical Society (IHS). Negotiations should start to discuss options with the IHS Board. This will bring the Archives back downtown.

Ms. Kohn noted that she has spoken with various people about the Archives and the most notable comment was a misunderstanding of what the Archives is and does. This shows a great need for public outreach.

Mr. Cilella stated that IHS would be willing to start negotiations with the Archives.

A parking concern was raised by the Council, which they would ask the Committee to recognize. Any use of the State Garage would cause problems for State employees.

Mr. Newman stated that the Council needed to go on the record to support two issues. The first is the relocation of the Archives to a permanent facility. As a part of this, should start the discussion with the IHS. The Council should also recommend to the Governor's Office that a state of the art archives will cost a specific amount and a public/private approach should be taken. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion.

A discussion followed.

Ms. Bennett stated that the report needs action steps included stating what will happen and who will do it.

Mr. Newman stated that the Council should be concerned with the day-to-day workings of the Archives now also. There are problems with animals, leaking of the building, and humidity control.

Mr. Wolf stated he was concerned that we not lock the decision into the IHS area. The report should state more of the downtown area, than one specific site.

Mr. Newman made a call for the question.

It was asked to restate the motion. Mr. Newman restated his motion with amendments from the discussion just held.

The Council gives direction to the Archives Committee to pursue specific ideas and actions including: looking at a site in the downtown area, working with the IHS as the prime area, use other state archives for needs and cost, choosing alternative downtown sites, list the concerns for the temporary facility and resolution of those issues, build the case for the need for a new facility, and other actions steps as necessary.

The motion carried.

A. Collaborative Plan Committee – Scott Massey

Mr. Massey noted that the report is now on the website and everyone has been sent an electronic version of the report

Mr. Massey reviewed the major changes of the report from the last meeting. Changes to the “recommendations section” are the most substantial. The most overarching change is a recommendation for formal overarching cultural/heritage planning process.

Ms. Bennett noted that the report states several times “recommendations from the Committee,” but it should state in the final draft “recommendations from the Council.”

Mr. Smith recommended that each organization share the draft with their constituents. People in various fields will have different comments and ideas.

At 1:00 there is a public forum to solicit comments from the general public. This will be incorporated into the report to be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Coffey made a motion and Mr. Wolf seconded that the Council take a stand in support the Committee’s report in principle. The motion carried.

IV. Other Issues

Ms. Bennett stated that the dates for the 2003 meeting are on the website. Ms. Regan-Dinius stated she would send them with the minutes.

Ms. Osborn asked that the website URL be listed on all Council documents.

Ms. Swenson asked that the date of the draft be listed on each version.

Ms. Conner stated that the Council will continue into the next calendar year and yet it still does not have an African-American representative. She would like to see an appointment made. Any suggestions for the position should be emailed to Ms. Compton.

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Agency and Organization News – Jane Rulon

Ms. Rulon sent around information about the Heartland Film festival.

Ms. Kohn announced the “Unsettling Stories” now on exhibit at the IHS.

October is National Art and Humanities Month. The Governor has signed a Proclamation which is on the Indiana Humanities Council website.

The Governor’s Arts Award deadline is October 18, 2002.

VIII. Next Meeting: December 6, 2002, 10 AM, Indiana Historical Society.

Ms. Swenson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and it carried. The Indiana Heritage and Culture Council meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. (EST).